

SPOTTER REPORTING CRITERIA

Tornado: circulation in contact with the ground.

Funnel Cloud: circulation not in contact with the ground.

Rotating Wall Cloud

Downburst (microburst/macroburst): wet or dry, visually identified.

Wind: causing damage (such as broken tree limbs or downed power lines) or estimated speeds greater than 40 mph (use the Beaufort scale).

Hail: greater than pea size or covering the ground, specify the size of the largest stone.

--Non-Severe Hail

¼ inch.....pea size

½ inch.....mothball

¾ inch.....dime/penny

--Severe Hail

1 inch.....quarter size

Rainfall: ¼ inch or more per ½ hour, or any cumulative total over ½ inch.

Flooding: of ANY kind!

Visibility: under ½ mile, caused by anything (fog, dust, smoke, ash, etc.)

Snowfall: accumulating one inch or more per hour, or any depth on desert floors.

Icing: of road surfaces caused by anything. Any icing on trees/shrubs.



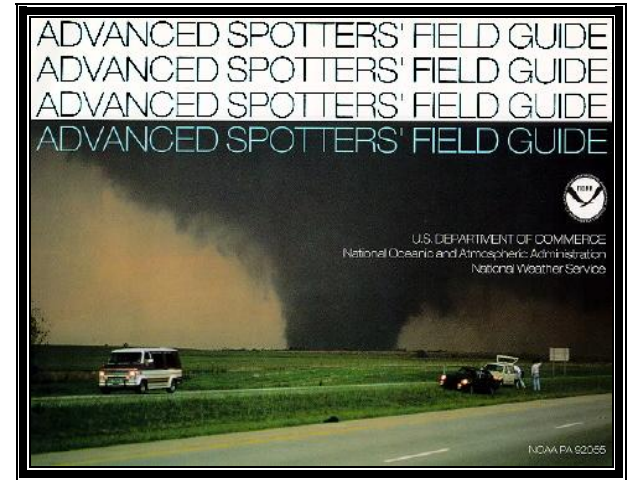
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NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE LAS VEGAS SKYWARN SPOTTER GUIDE



WIND EQUIVALENT – BEAUFORT SCALE			
MPH	KTS	International Description	Specifications
<1	<1	Calm	Calm; smoke rises vertically.
1-3	1-3	Light Air	Direction of wind shown by smoke drift not by wind vanes.
4-7	4-6	Light Breeze	Wind felt on face; leaves rustle; vanes moved by wind.
8-12	7-10	Gentle Breeze	Leaves and small twigs in constant motion; wind extends light flag.
13-18	11-16	Moderate	Raises dust, loose paper, small branches moved.
19-24	17-21	Fresh	Small trees begin to sway; crested wavelets form on inland waters.
25-31	22-27	Strong	Large branches in motion; whistling heard in telephone wires; umbrellas used with difficulty.
32-38	28-33	Near Gale	Whole trees in motion; inconvenience felt walking against wind.
39-46	34-40	Gale	Breaks twigs off trees; impedes progress.
47-54	41-47	Strong Gale	Slight structural damage occurs.
55-63	48-55	Storm	Trees uprooted; considerable damage occurs.
64-72	56-63	Violent Storm	Widespread damage.
73-82	64-71	Hurricane	

REPORTING PROCEDURES

-IDENTIFY yourself and your location – county and spotter number or name.

-WHAT you have seen – funnel cloud, heavy rain, flooding, etc.

-WHERE you saw it – direction and distance.

-WHEN you saw it – note the time.

-WHAT it was doing – size and intensity, damage.

- Do Not Assume We Know What is Happening

If in doubt, report it anyway.

A FEW FEATURES THAT YOU MIGHT SEE WITH STRONGER THUNDERSTORMS:

MAMMATUS: Cloud pouches typically found on the underside of the thunderstorm ANVIL and are indicative of strong instability.

OVERSHOOTING TOP: Found above the ANVIL and depending on height and duration, can be indicative of a strong thunderstorm. Indicates the area of strongest updraft into the storm.

DOWNBURST: Strong downdraft with an outrush of potentially damaging winds. Leading edge of this is called a GUST FRONT or OUTFLOW BOUNDARY. Usually followed by much cooler air.

Some Web Sites of Interest:

[National Weather Service Homepage](#)

[National Weather Service Las Vegas](#)

[Mohave County ALERT Flood Warning System](#)

[National Traffic and Road Closure Info](#)

[Clark County Regional Flood Control District](#)

[National SKYWARN Homepage](#)

[Citizen Weather Observer Program](#)

[Western Region Climate Center](#)

[Earthquake Information](#)

References to these vendors does not constitute an endorsement or recommendation by the National Weather Service or any of its field offices or employees.

